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COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION

The 13th February, 2015

SUBJECT: ROAD SAFETY POLICY OF ODISHA-2015

1.0. PREAMBLE:

The road accident scenario in Odisha causes a great concern. More than 10 persons die everyday due to accidents. While fatal accidents cause loss of invaluable human life, all accidents cause pain, grief and misery as well as economic loss. The increasing number of accidents, loss of lives and resources necessitate the State Government to frame policy on Road Safety.

The Government of Odisha is keen to take concerted measures to control the incidence of road accidents and ensure safe travel for all road users. Accordingly, the Government of Odisha feel the need to formulate and enunciate this separate Road Safety Policy which will act as a guide to the concerned Departments and to the public.

2.0. VISION:

A safe road network for all road users, with priority to pedestrians and cyclists, to achieve zero road accidents in the long run.

3.0. MISSION:

Reduce road accidents by 20% and fatalities by 20% by 2020.

4.0. OBJECTIVE:

- Improving road engineering and design, increasing, awareness, providing emergency care and strict enforcement on road.
- Design, develop and implement an Accident Information System to enable crash management in the State in the next two years.
- Provide a framework for undertaking coordinated actions and corrective measures by all concerned Departments.

- Provide the basis for accountability, evaluation, funding and research.
- Achieve 10 per cent reduction in fatalities and injuries caused due to road accidents in next 3 years.

5.0. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

Road Safety is a multi-disciplinary problem, and therefore, it is important that inter-departmental and coordinated approaches are required for sustainable reduction of road accidents and fatalities in the State. For effective implementation, Road Safety Council has been formed in Odisha vide Gazette notification No. 1146, dated the 18th June, 2001 under the Chairmanship of the Minister, Commerce & Transport, Odisha. The Council comprises members from Home, Works, Transport, Health & Family Welfare, School & Mass Education Departments along with representatives from voluntary organizations. The Council advises on all matters pertaining to the following:—

- Planning and co-ordination of policies and practices.
- Standards of safety in the road transport sector.
- Formulate and recommend road safety programmes for implementation.
- Suggest areas for research and development to improve safety aspects.
- Monitor and control the road safety measures undertaken in the State.

Apart from the above, District Road Safety Committee has been formed in each District under the Chairmanship of Collector and District Magistrate as Chairman for implementation of the Road Safety Schemes.

6.0. ACTION:

Government of Odisha will create an effective institutional mechanism to strengthen the Road Safety measures in the State and provide necessary support structures to enable each institution to play its role effectively. Some of the key actions to be undertaken are as follows:—

6.1. Strengthen Road Crash Database System:

The Odisha Police, through its State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB), collects crash data on number of accidents occurred, accidents severity, types of vehicle involved . causes of accidents etc. However, the crash data collected presently is not very useful in understanding the general pattern and trends of crashes as they do not contribute to the holistic analysis of crashes and further development of effective road safety interventions. As such crash data is key source of information for Government, Citizens, planners, facilitators and researchers, Government of Odisha is working towards development of

database management system. Following will be the key activities to improve the database.

- Create a database to fit the requirements of Home, Works, Transport, Health& Family Welfare, Housing & Urban Development Department and Research Institutions.
- All Trauma Care Centres, District Hospitals, 108 Ambulance Services to be connected to the database.
- Interfaces to be provided with VAHAN and SARATHI database of the State.
- Provide Business Analytics capability for in-depth accident analysis, investigation and reporting.
- GIS & GPS enablement for real time tracking.

6.2. Safe planning and design of roads:

The Government will take following measures for proper planning and design of roads:—

- Periodically identify accident prone areas/ black spots on the basis of accident intensity and severity.
- Take corrective actions in the identified accident prone areas and on the identified black spots through proper planning, design and construction techniques.
- Carry out sustainable improvements in the road network of entire State and take necessary actions such as road markings on all NHs, SHs with warning signs, curve treatments, re-design, develop all major junctions with safer treatments, etc..
- Remove encroachments and obstructions affecting the full use of roads.
- Construct wayside amenities/service centers on major road network etc. which will result in substantial reduction in road accidents/fatalities.
- Introduce 'Traffic Calming' measures to physically reduce the speed in vulnerable stretches, near schools/ hospitals /markets / other busy community locations.
- Form a Road Safety cell under Works Department to carry out the road safety activities.
- Conduct Road Safety management review by hiring independent agencies for all new capital and maintenance schemes.
- Develop a handbook on 'Road Safety Design Guidelines' to be used by engineers at all levels in all road sector agencies covering urban and rural roads.

6.3. Safe Driving:

Driver's error is a major cause of road accident and to address this issue, the Government intends to:—

- Undertake safety and awareness campaigns.
- Enforce fastening of seat belts and wearing of helmets as per statutory rules.
- Issuance of driving licenses from Automated Driving training Centers.
- Issuance of 'Certificate of Fitness' for vehicles from automated Inspection and Certification centers.
- Enforcement to check violation of basic safety requirements, drunken driving etc. and implement deterrent penal provisions including cancellation of driving license for repetitive offence.

6.4. Awareness, Education and Training for Road Users:

Government of Odisha will undertake following activities to create Awareness and educate Road Users:—

- Make Road Safety education programmes mandatory in schools and colleges.
- Conduct Road Safety awareness training programmes for teachers, parents and citizens.
- Road Safety awareness training to be given to the drivers before the issuance of driving license.
- Organize campaigns and orientation programmes for all categories of road users and make them aware of their respective responsibilities.
- Special emphasis on safety of vulnerable groups like school children, the disabled and senior citizens.

6.5. Enforcement of Safety Laws:

Government of Odisha will take appropriate measures to strengthen and improve the quality of enforcement in order to ensure effective and uniform implementation across the State:—

- Upgrade the vehicles with latest equipments/ gadgets to implement effective traffic management and enforcement measures.
- Strengthen the police team conducting Highway Patrolling.
- Enforce spot penalties, overloading of passenger vehicles, drunken driving, non-wearing of helmets and seat belts.
- Provide continuous training to Traffic Police personnel.

- Introduce Road safety as an agenda in monthly review or quarterly review.
- Ensure greater accountability and introduce a system of recognition of meritorious service.

6.6. Emergency Medical Services for Road Accidents:

The key principle is to provide first aid that will stabilize the injured during the so called 'GOLDEN HOUR'. Government of Odisha has introduced 108 ambulance services in Odisha. Provision of ambulances with driver, helper and pharmacist/paramedic staff and establishment of trauma care centers along the NHs/SHs have been made in Odisha:—

- Provision for Trauma care centers, Ambulances and Cranes at reasonable distance gaps on NH/SH for extending immediate clearance of road blockades at accident sites.
- Develop fully equipped Trauma Care Centers along the NHs and SHs with life-saving equipments and facilities.
- The Patrol Cars, crash rescue vehicles (CRV's) & Ambulances to operate synchronously as a "Crash Rescue Unit" through a central control and co-ordination system.
- Promote involvement of private practitioners and hospitals in EMR and trauma care.
- Maintain the access roads to each emergency care hospital comfortable, pothole free and free from roadside parking or obstructions.
- Emergency vehicles to have preferred right on roads, which should be enforced to go to emergency care units of the hospitals as well as trauma centers.
- Implement cashless treatment for 48 hours in trauma care centers along NHs and SHs.
- Train all commercial vehicle drivers in First Aid trauma care.
- Casualty of all district equipped hospitals to provide Emergency Medical Services to trauma cases.
- 108 ambulances to be placed on NHs and SHs in every 50 KM distance between 2 identified trauma care units.

6.7. Research for Road Safety:

The Government of Odisha will promote research activity in road safety by identifying priority areas, funding of research initiatives and publication of reports in conferences, workshops & websites. The following activities will be carried out by Government of Odisha:—

- Identify and nominate key institutes to carry out road safety research in the State.
- Prepare priorities for research areas following an in-depth review of road safety data available from Road Crash Database System.
- Strategy for implementing Road Safety initiatives in the State.

6.8. Strengthening Legal and Financial Environment for Road Safety:

Road Safety measures require strengthening of legal provisions and enhanced funding support for its sustainability. Government of Odisha will undertake the following activities to ensure that the outcomes are achieved:—

- Review existing legislative set up including the potential updation required in the legal provisions for improving Road Safety.
- Identify measures for augmenting funding for road safety.
- Encourage private participation in the task of raising funds for road safety.

6.9. Provision of corpus funds:

- Private vehicle carrying an accident victim to a nearest hospital to be subsequently reimbursed by the Transport Commissioner, Odisha, Cuttack from available funds under “Road Safety Head” or Odisha Road Safety Society.

By Order of the Governor

S. RASTOGI

Commissioner-*cum*-Secretary to Government